

Worksession

Agenda Item #	7
Meeting Date	April 18, 2005
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow Community & Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Proposal to Establish the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
Background	<p>The Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College is in the process of expanding and renovating its campus. Residents near the campus stand to be affected by both positive and negative changes that occur at the college. Their perceptions and recommendations can be very useful to the Takoma Park City Council and Montgomery College while planning for campus modifications takes place and for addressing any unforeseen impacts.</p> <p>Informal and ad hoc committees have discussed plans for specific development proposals, but a more formalized committee would be more helpful while planning for the significant upcoming work at the campus. A resolution establishing such a committee is attached for consideration by the City Council.</p> <p>In the coming years, the existing Takoma Park campus will be completely redone. A three-phased Resource Center (library) is planned to stretch between the new Student Services Building and the Commons Building along New York Avenue. A two-phased Science and Math Center is planned to replace buildings between the new Student Services Building and Falcon Hall along Fenton Street. Remaining campus buildings will be renovated.</p> <p>Decisions on the general design and capacity of these buildings will be made relatively soon. Preparation of the next Facilities Master Plan for the College will begin next year, with submittal to the State due in early 2007. That Facilities Master Plan will be primarily focused on work within the City limits of Takoma Park. The City will want to take a formal position on it, probably in September 2006, to pass on our comments to the Planning Board in their Mandatory Referral process.</p> <p>Besides these large projects, other activities in the near term will impact neighbors of the campus. This summer, construction will begin on New York Avenue between Fenton Street and Takoma Avenue, including new utility lines, sidewalks, street resurfacing and improved (perhaps raised) crosswalks. The new Student Services Building is scheduled to open in Spring 2006 and the Commons Building at Takoma and New York Avenues will be renovated during 2006 and 2007.</p>
Policy	The City Council is concerned with the nature of development in Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	Not applicable
Attachments	<p>Memo dated April 13, 2005 from Jennie Wells of Montgomery College concerning formation of proposed committee</p> <p>Draft resolution to establish Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee</p>

Recommendation	The City Council will discuss establishment of the proposed committee and provide direction to staff as to how it wishes to proceed.
Special Consideration	

April 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM:

To: Suzanne Ludlow

City of Takoma Park

From: Jennie Wells

Montgomery College, Takoma Park Campus

I want to thank you for sending a copy of the proposed resolution to the College for our input. The relationship that has been carefully fostered between the College and the City is such a valued, positive relationship and we want to continue working closely together.

I shared the proposal with Rocky Sorrell, Bill Cambell, Dave Capp, Chahnax McRae, Susan Madden, Howard Stanley and Clarice Somersall. Collectively we have a few observations and comments:

We welcome a formal committee . We anticipate such a committee would include appointed members whose participation would include regular attendance . As a result, such a committee would facilitate consistent and regular communication; a process that will bring the same core members to the discussions on a consistent basis will help all of us . Both the City and the College have very complex organizations and processes. We believe that such a consistent attendance will enhance and facilitate dialogue and community relations .

We assume this committee would supplement communication activities but would not substitute for the more formal reporting processes instituted between the City and the College under separate agreements. As a result, The College will continue its commitment to communicate directly with the City Council on matters of College objectives.

When the Committee reports to the City Council, the College would appreciate the opportunity to have a representative present to provide information as needed and respond to questions of the Council.

Thank you again for letting us respond to the proposed resolution. This basically formalizes the Town and Gown meetings the College and City have enjoyed over the past seven years. We did have a very positive Town and Gown meeting in February at which we discussed the proposed resolution.

- D R A F T -

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE NEIGHBORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council and North Takoma residents recognize the importance of the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College and value its presence in our community; AND,

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the future development of the existing Takoma Park Campus is of great importance to the North Takoma Community and the City of Takoma Park; AND,

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the value of long-term planning and on-going dialogue between Montgomery College officials and residents who live nearby.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND:**

There is hereby established a Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee that shall serve in an advisory role to the City Council on matters related to the existence and expansion of the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.

The purpose of the Committee shall be:

- A) To advise the City Council on neighborhood issues related to the planning and implementation of facility and enrollment changes at the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.
- B) To nurture the good relationship between the College and the community by maintaining regular dialogue, and working proactively with Montgomery College to identify and resolve potential issues early in the process, consistent with the Committee's direction by Council.

In furtherance of this mission, the Committee shall attempt to accomplish the following:

- A) Be familiar with the plans and development proposals related to the expansion of the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.
- B) Identify, as early as possible in the planning process, the effects of those plans and proposals on the North Takoma community.
- C) Make recommendations as to ways the College may meet its needs and preferences while preserving the comfort, character and residential environment of the North Takoma community.

The Committee shall consist of residents who live near the campus and at least one member of Historic Takoma, Inc.

The Committee shall meet quarterly or as often as needed to fulfill its responsibilities.

The City Manager or his or her designee shall provide appropriate staff support to the Committee.

The Committee shall brief the North Takoma Citizens' Association at their regular meetings about the work of the Committee and possible issues that may affect the community.

The Committee shall brief the Council twice a year or as needed.